

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Summer 2021

Vol. XXVI No. 2

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 1st quarter of 2021 through curbside pickup.

Newspaper	0.00	#1 PET	3.75
Cardboard	36.18	#2 HDPE Natural	0.93
Mixed Paper	31.02	# HDPE Color	0.93
Steel Cans	1.53	#3 - #7 Plastic Mixed	0.42
Alum. Cans	1.06	Residuals	23.70
Mixed Glass	18.33	Total	117.86

* Above quantities are all listed in tons.

4.91 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program

-----There were no dumpster days in the 1st quarter, therefore no scrap metal.

For questions concerning the "Curbside Recycling Program", contact **RUMPKE** at **1-800-828-8171**.

"2021" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2021.

October 14, 15, 16

Hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Please note: **NO TIRES!**

NO FREON!

NO PROPANE TANKS!

Drop-Off Hours for Yard Waste!!

Brush, limbs, grass clippings, and leaves may be brought to the Amherst Township property located on the **EAST** side of Oberlin Road (directly across from the Township Garage which is located at 7530 Oberlin Road) at the following times:

- 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mon – Fri
- 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Saturday
- **8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays**
- Amherst Township Residents only
- I.D. may be checked
- No Commercial
- **No Plastic Bags** – place bags in 55 gal drum
- ➔ **Yard Waste Pile** is located at the far back of the property on the east side of Oberlin Road.

Have a problem? Complaint forms are available at the Township Hall, inside the white bulletin board, or they may be downloaded from the Township's website.

Township Hall & Garage 988-5894

Fax..... 988-5877

Fiscal Officer **Ext. 104**

Email: amherstwpfo@gmail.com

Road Superintendent (garage)..... **Ext. 111**

Email: amhersttwproads@gmail.com

Zoning Inspector (Voicemail checked daily) **Ext. 103**

Remi Cerrone, Zoning Inspector

Email: amhersttwpzoning@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon., Wed., & Sat. – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Trustees

Dennis Abraham(cell) 213-6775

(Ambulance, Cemetery, Park, Water, Buildings, Land, Roads, Ditches, Neighborhood Watch, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep.)

Neil Lynch 988-7681

(Sewer, Fire, Equipment, Personnel, Senior Services, Phase II Storm Water/ Environmental Strategy, LORCO, Facility Security, NIMS Primary Contact, Lorain County Community Alliance Rep, Lorain County Joint Police District Rep.)

David C. Urig..... 385-0333

(Lighting, Solid Waste, Zoning,)

Fiscal Officer

Chris Kish(cell) 213-0659

Road Superintendent

Kevin Smarsh..... (work cell) 370-5242

Twp Administrator/Senior Service Office

Lynda Ashley **Ext. 101**

Email: amhersttwp@gmail.com

Email: amhersttwpSeniors@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon thru Fri – 8am to 12 Noon

Fire Prevention Officer

Chris Niehart.....(cell) 597-0005

Email: amhersttwpfire@gmail.com

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Dave Richards..... 323-6111

Sheriff's Department 329-3710

A.T. Community Policing Officer: **Matthew Lawson**

Dpt Lawson's Non-Emergency/Voicemail329-3752

Email: mlawson@loraincountysheriff.com

Ohio Edison

(1-888-LIGHTTS)

Automated Outage Reporting Line..... 1-888-544-4877

TRUSTEE MEETINGS:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month at **7:00 p.m.**

•Trustee Meetings are viewable online on the "Meetings" page of the Township website or through the "Amherst Township" channel on YouTube.



NO PETS IN PARK



To preserve the park for public uses, and to protect the health and safety of those using the park, the Amherst Township Trustees passed Resolution No. 10/04/02 stating that animals are not permitted in the Amherst Township Park. Whoever violates this resolution is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall be prosecuted (ORC Section 511.32).

For those that wish to walk their dogs in a park, there are two local parks that allow for dog walking:

- **Rowland Nature Center** – located at 7621 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria Township
- **Amherst Beaver Creek Reservation** – located at 913 North Lake Street in Amherst



Whether you are in your yard or on a walk, dispose of your pet's waste promptly in the trash to prevent it from entering storm drains and roadside ditches. Simply bring plastic bags with you when you walk your pet. Use a bag to pick up the pet waste, tie closed and place in trash.

Pet waste left on the street or lawn does not just go away or fertilize the grass. The bacteria in pet waste is often washed down storm drains and into ditches, streams, lakes, and inlets, and can travel for miles in the water.

LCPH Community Health Investment Grant

The Amherst Township Middle Ridge Road Park provides many activities for families; walking trails, baseball fields, soccer fields, picnic areas, pavilions, and playground areas. Amherst Township strives to promote a safe, outdoor environment for both children and families in which they can be active, and improve their level of health both physically and mentally. Due to the increased usage of the Amherst Township Park during COVID-19 and various acts of vandalism, the Township has found a need to repair or replace some of the playground equipment, which is very costly to the taxpayers.

To help assist with this cost the Township applied for the Lorain County Public Health (LCPH) "Community Health Investment" Grant and was awarded \$6,756.81 of the requested \$14,084.87, scoring 62 points out of a possible 75 points. This LCPH grant will cover the cost of replacement of six worn out platforms decks and the double zip slide.

One requirement for the grant is the Township needed to partner with another. Girl Scout Troop 50240, under the direction of Tracy Takacs, has partnered with the township and volunteered to check the playground regularly for trash left behind and for signs of vandalism. Any issues they see will be reported to the Amherst Township Administrator and if necessary, the Lorain County Sheriff's office.

Thank you, Girl Scout Troop 50240, for taking pride in your community and helping out!

Zoning Commission Board

Lonnie Dillon – Chairman
 Jim Conrady – Vice Chair
 Jim McCann – Secretary
 Hank Harsar – Member
 Darryl Saladin – Member
 Colin Serne – Alternate I
 Geno Taliano – Alternate II

Board of Zoning Appeals

Bill Latrany – Chairman
 Ronald Friend – Secretary
 Rose Betchker – Member
 Kirsten Hill – Member
 Joan Whitman – Member
 Steve Ostrolencki – Alternate I
 Bruce Hills – Alternate II

Amherst Township would like to welcome **Bruce Hills** to the Board of Zoning Appeals, as an Alternate.

We would also like to thank **Tari Repp** for her 4+ years of service on the BZA. Tari has served as secretary and was vice-chair for 2021. A new vice-chair will be chosen at the next BZA meeting.

LCSWD “COMMUNITY GRANT”

The Lorain County Storm Water Advisory Committee (SWAC), representing the Lorain County Storm Water District (LCSWD) managed by the Lorain County Commissioners, has budgeted funds for projects related to Storm Water improvements since 2011. “Storm Water District” funding is the result of fees paid by all property owners in the unincorporated areas of Lorain County. Fees are listed on your semi-annual property tax bill. The minimum annual fee for a homeowner in 2020 is \$42.56 and appears as “SPECIAL” in the “Tax Distribution” section of your real estate tax bill.

Amherst Township has established the “Engle Ditch Drainage Improvement and Flooding Abatement” project as part of their Storm Water Management Program. Due to the high cost of this project, it has been divided into various phases.

Funding for all cost to improve the drainage of the Engle Ditch will be a combination of township funds, material, equipment and labor, and financial assistance from the Lorain County Storm Water District.

Amherst Township was awarded \$129,000 as part of the **2020 LCSWD** Community Grant to be used towards the “Engle Ditch Drainage Restoration Project – Phase III”. Total cost of the “Phase III” project is estimated to be \$154,500 with Amherst Township being responsible for the remaining \$25,500. This project was not sent out for bids in 2020 and remains a valid project.

Amherst Township has been awarded \$68,000 as part of the **2021 LCSWD** Community Grant to be used towards the “Engle Ditch Drainage Restoration Project – Phase IV”. Total cost of the “Phase IV” project is estimated to be \$80,000 with Amherst Township being responsible for the remaining \$12,000.

The Lorain County Engineer has recommended combining “Phase III” and “Phase IV” into a single project (now known as “Engle Ditch Restoration Phase Three”) to reduce the overall project cost expected with the economy of scale. The Engineer has revised the estimated combined project cost from \$234,000 (\$154,000 + \$80,000) to \$205,450. This project will include ditch

dipping, cleaning, grubbing, seeding, and culvert installation of the Engle Ditch from the Gun Club to the culvert at Stang Road.

This project is currently out for bids, with the bid opening to be July 13, 2021. Work will begin in 2021 and is expected to be complete by early 2022.

The township continues to work with the property owners, the Lorain County Engineers office and the **LCSWD** on this multi-year flooding abatement project. Once completed, major flooding on the east side of the township should be greatly reduced.

LCSWD MINI-GRANT

For the fifth year Amherst Township applied for \$5000 from the Lorain County Storm Water District (LCSWD) Mini-Grant. This funding is awarded on a “First-Come-First-Serve” basis for qualified storm water management projects and requires a 20% minimum financial match from the township.

If awarded, Amherst Township will use this funding for the repair/replacement of three catch basins in Hidden Valley; two are located at 6917 & 7007 Hidden Valley Drive, and the third one at 924 Hillside Drive. Total estimated cost of this project is \$7270.

Deteriorating catch basins are causing erosion issues for adjoining properties and streets, allowing sediment to wash into the storm sewer system draining to the Beaver Creek watershed, causing loss of value, blockages, and environmental concerns.



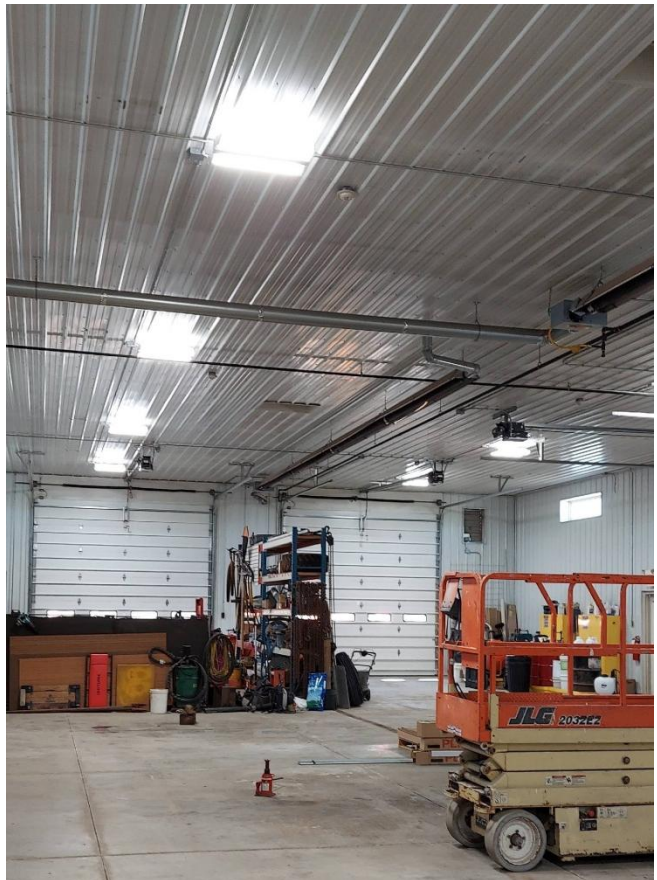
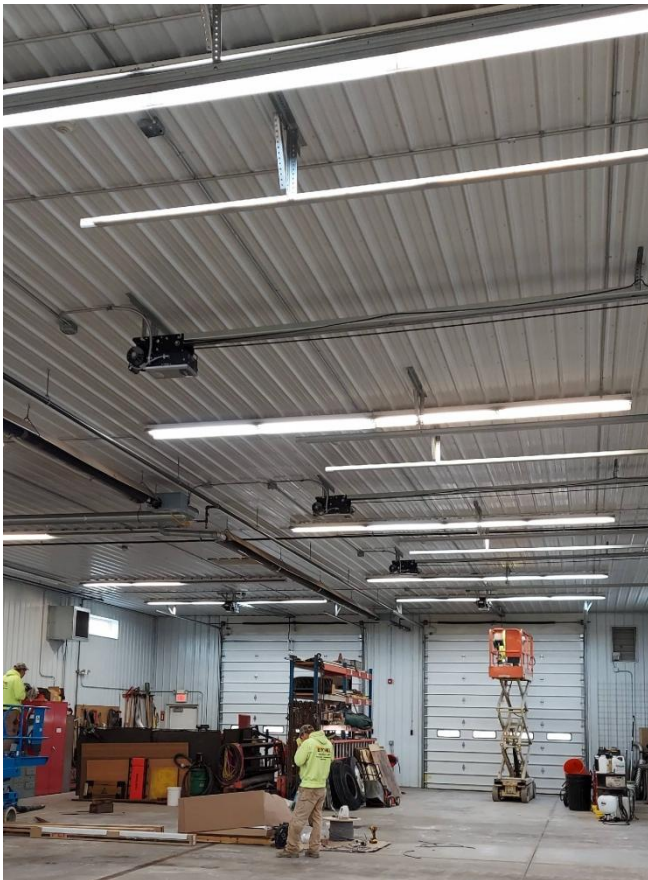
Catch Basin at 6917 Hidden Valley Drive



Florescent Shop Lighting



LED Shop Lighting



NOPEC GRANTS

Amherst Township received a 2021 “NOPEC (Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council) Energized Community” Grant (NEC) in the amount of \$12,172.00. This grant is designed to help implement energy efficiency or energy infrastructure projects that will save energy and benefit the community. With this money, the township has completed the first of three stages in upgrading the lighting in the township’s building. Due to the number of lights and the kWh usage, the garage was the first priority to change from fluorescent shop lighting to LED lighting. The lighting is now much brighter and has double the life expectancy. It is a cost savings to the township in reducing our energy footprint (kWh usage) and even more so in the high repair costs of labor and materials.

← **See photos on opposite page**

This project will also be used to apply for NOPEC’s “Green Ribbon Award” which requires a project completion deadline of May 31, 2021 to qualify for this award. This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of member communities who have completed projects to reduce their municipality’s energy footprint. Energy-related projects are eligible to win a plaque and \$2500.00 for future energy efficiency initiatives. If awarded to Amherst Township, this money will be escrowed for use in 2022, along with any future anticipated 2022 NEC Grant monies we receive, in order to complete the changeover to LED lights in the Township Hall, Sheriff’s Office, and the Township Offices.

NOPEC also awarded Amherst Township with \$1500 of “Community Event Sponsorship” (CES) funds for 2021 that will be used to pay for grinding of yard waste. This amount will be combined with 2020’s \$1500 CES grant that was put into escrow, as we were forced to cancel the Spring 2020 Dumpster Days event due to the Coronavirus, and CARES funds were used to fund a private contractor to perform the Fall 2020 Dumpster Days event.

For more information about NOPEC, contact their customer service line at **855-667-3201** or visit their website at:

www.nopec.org

OPWC ROUND-35

Amherst Township has been awarded financial assistance for one of two road projects submitted to the “Ohio Public Works Commission” for the OPWC Round-35 funding program in 2021.

The approved “South Dewey Road Resurfacing Project (TR-105)” has been bid out and awarded. This project consists of approximately 3,380 ft (or 7,647 sq. yards) of roadway located from Middle Ridge Road to Ackerman Road at the southern border of Amherst Corporation Line. The project was estimated to cost approximately \$108,500, which included \$67,400 of OPWC Grant funding, \$12,850 of an OPWC 12-year loan at 0% interest, and \$28,210 of township funds. Construction should begin this summer. The last time South Dewey Road was resurfaced was in 1996. The township intends to apply for Round-36 Grant funding to resurface the remaining portion of South Dewey Road that is located in the township as well as the “Hidden Valley Subdivision Concrete Replacement” project that was not awarded in 2021. This project included replacing approximately 242-feet of full width roadway on Moss Canyon.



2020

CONCRETE REPAIR

In addition to the OPWC projects, Amherst Township funded a “Hidden Valley Subdivision Concrete Replacement Project” in the Fall of 2020. This project consisted of approximately 584 feet of roadway being replaced at a cost of \$42,897.73. This project consisted of replaced roadway at 7404 Hidden Glenn, 7448 Hidden Glenn, 415 Berry Ridge, 544-548 Fieldstone, and the intersection of Aspen and Oaknoll Drive.



“ATV” USE ON PUBLIC ROADS



(Reprint of Fall 2019 article)

You may wonder what regulations the Ohio Revised Code (O.R.C.) contains regarding all-terrain vehicles (ATV’s). Generally, ATV’s are considered “All-Purpose Vehicles” under the Ohio Revised Code and are regulated as such (ref O.R.C. §4519.01(B)). This category also covers **all season vehicles, mini-bikes, and trail bikes.**

O.R.C. §4519.40 describes where an operator is prohibited from driving all-purpose vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and snowmobiles, including:

- On limited access highways, freeways, or their rights-of-way;
- On any private property without permission of the owner;
- On state lands or waters (i.e. parks, recreational areas, campgrounds, etc.), unless a sign has been posted permitting usage;
- On any railroad tracks or rights-of-way;
- While transporting a firearm or bow that is not unloaded and securely encased;
- For the purpose of chasing, pursuing, capturing, or killing any animal or wild fowl; and
- From sunset to sunrise, unless lights are displayed.

A violation of this section is a fine not less than \$50 and not more than \$500 and/or imprisonment for not less than 3 days and not more than 30 days.

Under O.R.C. §4519.41, an operator of an all-purpose vehicle may travel to cross a highway (other than a limited access highway), on a county or township highway whenever the local authority permits, alongside a street or highway for a limited distance to a riding area, or on the berm of a highway (other than a limited access highway) when it can be done safely.

A local authority cannot require the registration or licensing of any all-purpose vehicle (or snowmobile or off-highway motorcycle) as those items are required to be registered with the registrar of motor vehicles subject to certain exceptions under O.R.C. §4519.02. Those exceptions include, for example, a

snowmobile or off-highway motorcycle that is operated exclusively on the owner’s property or an all-purpose vehicle that is used primarily for agricultural purposes when the owner qualifies for the CAUV tax credit. For more information on registration, visit the Bureau of Motor Vehicles website at:

<https://bmv.ohio.gov/vr-other-avp.aspx>

While ATV registration and licensing falls under the state, townships do have the ability to regulate all-purpose vehicles on streets, highways, public property under its jurisdiction, and within the reasonable exercise of police power (O.R.C. §4519.48). Signage may be posted in townships to help owners understand where they can and cannot operate an ATV.

****Article taken and revised From July 2019 Grassroots Clippings, “Did You Know? ...” a publication of the Ohio Township Association*

If residents notice a violation or have any questions or concerns they should contact the Sheriff Department’s non-emergency number at **329-3710**.



Reminder From the Sheriff



Operators of snowmobiles and 4-wheelers are reminded that they need permission to be on private property. Most riders are law abiding and respectful of others’ property. However, many do not know that farmers’ fields are often prepped before winter arrives, and sometimes they are planted as well. Some criminal laws that may be charged under this negligence are Criminal Damaging, Vandalism, or Prohibited Acts.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Sheriff by calling the “Community Policing Officer” Office at 329-3752. Please leave a message stating your name and a return number where you can be reached. This number is not monitored 24 hours a day. You may also contact Deputy Lawson by email at:

mlawson@loraincountysheriff.com

“988” Suicide Hotline

The Federal Communication Commission (“FCC”) has established “988” as a nationwide abbreviated telephone dialing code to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis hotline.

An 800 number (**1-800-273-TALK**) already universally connects to suicide counselors, but people facing a suicide crisis might not remember such a long number.

During the transition period for the abbreviated “988” number the 800 hotline number will remain in service. The “988” number is being rolled out in some parts of the country beginning April 24, 2021 and should be available country wide by July 16, 2022.

This new hotline will affect how you dial numbers for the “988” exchange for Amherst. Starting on April 24, 2021, you will need to include the “**440**” area code when you dial “988” numbers.

There will be a grace period. Seven-digit dialing will still work until October 24, 2021, when those calls will no longer be connected.

Yard Waste Recycling Center Extended Summer Hours

As a reminder to residents, the “Yard Waste Pile” that is located on the east side of Oberlin Road, directly across from the Township Hall, will be open until 8pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, which coincides with the Trustees Meeting nights. These extended hours will continue through the summer and early fall.

Please, **YARD WASTE ONLY!!!**

The yard waste pile is for disposing of your limbs, brush, lawn clippings, and leaves, **only!**

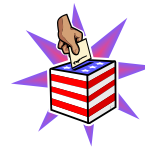
Prohibited items would include siding, wood, stone, junk, and construction material as well as any other material that does not grow in your yard.

Residents are reminded to please place your empty plastic bags in the 55-gallon drum at the center, or take bags with you.

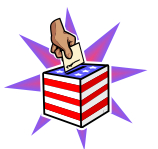
Amherst Township
Senior Service Office Hours:
8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)
Ph: 440-988-5894 – Ext. 101
Lynda Ashley, Director

Email: amhersttwpseniors@gmail.com

Callers are strongly encouraged to leave a message with your name, number, and a brief description of the reason for the call. All messages will receive a call back.



Thank-You



Voter Approval of the 1-mil, 5-year
“Road & Bridge” Renewal Levy

The Amherst Township Board of Trustees appreciates the positive response to the recent vote on the 1-mil, 5-year “Road & Bridge” renewal levy. Residents will see no increase in their taxes, as the “Road & Bridge” levy has been offset by a reduction in the “Fire and Emergency Medical Service” levy. These levy adjustments should allow current service levels to be maintained for the township roads, bridges, fire and EMS through the year 2026. There were 169 votes cast at the May Primary election with 131 voting for the levy and 38 voting against the levy.



Amherst Fire Dept’s Response To Amherst Township	1st Quarter 2021	
Fire Calls (N of Turnpike):	13	19.7%
Fire Calls (S of Turnpike):	7	10.6%
EMS-First Responder (N):	30	45.5%
EMS-First Responder (S):	16	24.2%
Total Calls:	66	100%

PERMITS REQUIRED

Residents are reminded that permits are needed for pools, decks, porches, patios, gazebos, fences, ponds, signs, garages, new construction, building additions, accessory buildings, and driveways. When a permit is obtained before the start of construction, the fee will be reduced by 50%. Be sure you or your contractor has obtained a permit. **Payments must be made by check only. Cash is not accepted.**

Please contact Remi Cerrone, Amherst Township Zoning Inspector for these permits. Office hours for the Zoning Inspector are from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. He can be reached at 988-5894. Voice Mail is checked daily.

Building Inspections are not required. It is recommended that residents hire their own inspectors.

DRIVEWAY APRONS

Residents are also reminded that when a road project requires modification of a drive apron, as a general rule, the drive apron modification will be completed with the same material as the road project. In all cases, maintenance of a drive apron is the responsibility of the property owner.

Printed on Recycled Paper

Amherst Township
7530 Oberlin Road
Elyria, OH 44035
www.amhersttownship.us

Park Pavilion Reservations

To avoid a scheduling conflict, please contact Amherst Township Senior Service Director, **Lynda Ashley**, to reserve the park pavilion. Current reservations can be viewed on the Township's website under "Depts/Park".

Lynda can be reached at the township Mondays through Fridays between 8 a.m. and 12 noon by calling **988-5894 (ext 101)**.

Contact Sheriff's Dept.

Residents are reminded that they can help deter crime by keeping home and car doors locked, as well as keeping garage doors closed. If residents know of, or see, any suspicious activity in the township or at the Amherst Township Park, please contact the Sheriff's Dept. at **329-3710**. To contact the sheriff's dispatch from your cell phone without being charged, call **323-1212**. These are not "911" emergency lines.

Curfew

Please be aware that a curfew exists in Amherst Township for minors age 16 and under between the hours of Midnight and 5 a.m. This curfew will be enforced by the Lorain County Sheriff's Dept.

**PRESORTED STD.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.179
LORAIN, OHIO**

**Monthly Meeting
Dates & Times:**

**Trustees: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Zoning Commission: 1st Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.**